

⁵**Agency-Specific Qualifying Information
Used to Filter Out Unnecessary Referrals
(For Use With *Missouri Dead/Sick Bird Call Decision Tree*)**

Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory

Any phone inquiries received by the Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (VMDL) with respect to dead/sick birds will be evaluated by Drs. Dan Shaw or Alex Bermudez. In cases where the history suggests West Nile virus infection the caller will be referred to their local public health department. In instances where the case history suggests the possibility of a foreign animal disease the caller will be strongly encouraged to submit birds to the VMDL for diagnostic evaluation. Diagnostic testing will be offered free of charge (to be paid by the Missouri Department of Agriculture [MDA] or the VMDL) to encourage case submission. If the individual is unable or unwilling to bring in birds for a diagnostic workup, contact information of the caller and the location of the birds will be recorded and forwarded to both Dr. Dave Hopson (Area Veterinarian In Charge [AVIC], USDA/APHIS/Veterinary Services) and Rose Foster (MDA). In cases that are submitted to the VMDL, all reportable diseases will be reported to Dr. Dave Hopson and Rose Foster as required by state and federal law.

Sick (Non-Dead) Birds

Callers who report sick (non-dead) birds should be referred to the appropriate agency, as designated in the *Missouri Dead/Sick Bird Call Decision Tree*. Each agency will take action appropriate to situations involving disease (illness) in bird populations of interest to that particular agency. If the caller asks what he/she should do with the bird, each agency will normally suggest to “Leave the bird alone – let Nature take its course.” The caller can be given disposal instructions (Attachment 4) in the event the bird dies later through the course of natural events.